THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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VISITORS WELCOME

The San Antonio Radio Club meets every first and third Friday at Draughon's Business College, 409 E. Martin St.

VHF AND UP

From what can be determined locally, the OSCAR transmitter on 145.00 mc. ceased transmitting about 2 Jan. 62. The extremely rapid HI's which were being sent (about 35 wpm) where heard throughout the world for the expected 3 weeks lifetime of the batteries.

With the experience gained from this first effort, the OSCAR group in California plans to go into more elaborate experiments—eventually an active amateur repeater may be orbited which would permit cross-country VHF/UHF contact between advanced amateur organizations.

A larger and sturdier ECHO II aluminum/plastic satellite is soon to be launched by the NASA. It will be 135 ft. in diameter and will be lower in altitude (600 mi.) than Echo I (1000 mi.). Because of these two important factors, it may be possible for amateur contacts to be made by bouncing signals off the sphere as was done by industry. The orbiting is to take place in March or April 62.

For satellite work, an antenna capable of being tilted vertically is a must, and W5VY is making plans to adapt his 2-meter colinear array so it can be rotated on elevation as well as azimuth.

Echo II will carry a beacon transmitter on 136 mc. which can serve as a lock-on and track feature to help in aiming a 144 or 220 mc. high gain antenna. A polar orbit for Echo II is planned.

From W5HFF, via W5LGG, we hear that when Marine Lt. Col. Glenn is orbited in his Mercury capsule in late January 62, he will transmit on 15.016 mc. AM voice and 296.8 mc. FM, simultaneously. Now is your chance to break your receiver loose from the BC band and get some of that real "A-OK" lingo direct from the capsule's mouth. Remember, the first three orbits of the earth favor south Texas. Good luck for now. Cal Graf, W5LFM.

BEXAR COUNTY EMERGENCY NETS

An emergency communications plan is being published and it is intended to hold regular net sessions and simulated emergency tests. Nets have been established on the frequencies listed below. All who can are enjoined to check in with the Assistant Emergency Coordinator in charge of each net.

Bexar County 6 Meter Net 50820 Kc 2100 Monday K5PKX NCS.

Bexar County 40 Meter Net 7260 Kc 1900 Monday K5UWS NCS.

Bexar County 75 Meter Net 3980 Kc 2000 Monday K5TGA NCS.

Bexar County 80 Meter CW Net 3540 Kc 1830 Wed. W5EJT NCS.

The above times are Central Standard time. Mode of operation for 6, 40 and 75 meter nets may be AM or SSB. At present we have a very small nucleus of AREC members on each net.

Many AREC membership cards have expired and some members have moved out of the area. It would be appreciated if those members involved would mail their cards for indorsement and renewal. In the event there has

Editor	K5PKX
VHF Editor	W5LFM
DX Editor	W5LGG
40 Meter Editor	K5MOF
SSB Editor	W5BVI
Circulation Manager	K5OPT

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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB, W5SC
W5IWE, Pres. K5VCR, V. P.
W5EDZ, Sec. K5UKN, Treas.

been a change in your equipment or operating frequencies since last indorsment, please contact your Emergency Coordinator. If you desire to become a regular AREC member you may do so by contacting E. L. Ulrey, K5HZR, EC San Antonio/Bexar County, 4215 Dysart Dr., ED 3-0060.

DX NOTES

Looking back over 1961 DX-wise, it was a great year despite the sinking MUF's. There were many new countries put on the air for the first time by outstanding DX-peditions. There were the fine Kure Island (KH6ECD); Malpelo Island (HK0-TU); Mali (7G1A/TZ); Kamaran Islands (VS9K6) and Vatican City (HV1CN) efforts. Each of these well executed DX-peditions handed out thousands of "new country" contacts to DX'ers around the world, and followed through with QSL's.

1962 is starting with a bang too. Danny Weil is currently active from the Marquises Islands as FO8AN, passing out thousands of rapid-fire QSO's on SSB and CW. The Marquises are part of French Oceania, but are several hundred miles northwest of Tahita and may be recognized as a separate country. The YV0AA (Aves Island) DX-pedition also took place in early 1962, and gave many lucky hams a rare new one. The big event of the year, however, promises to be W4BPD's around-the-world DX-pedition now scheduled to start in March. Gus has already received licenses to operate from the Aldabra Islands, VQ7, and from any of Australias' far-flung island possessions, many of which are excellent new country candidates, and from several of the rare Arabic states.

A DX question often asked is what is the RAREST DX? The West Gulf DX Club recently polled its members, who average 274 confirmed, and obtained the following "top ten" in rarity: 1. Gabon (TR8)

2. Tromelin Island (FB8)
3. Sikkim (AC3)
4. Tibet (AC4)
5. Willis Island (VK4)
6. Timor (CR10)
7. Heard Island (VK0)
8. Aldabra Islands (VQ7)
9. Yemen (4W1)
10. Albania (ZA)

How many of these have you worked? (My score is zero!) Others high on the list were Comoros, FH8; Rodriquez, VQ8R; South Sandwich, VP8; Trans-Jordan, JY; and Wallis, FW8. (Omitted from this listing were many countries where hamming is not allowed and QSO's are impossible.) Let's hope 1962 will bring us all QSO's

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73, Len, W5LGG

SINGLE SIDEBAND AROUND SAN ANTONIO

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope the new year brings you all that new equipment you wanted. There are some real goodies on the market.

SSB activity has been spotty and at times very good. DX has been fair for those that are still looking for DXCC. On 15 meters in the early afternoon there are ZS's, VQ's and most of South and Central America. On 20 meters there have been openings a little later in the afternoon with about the same areas being heard. The YV0-AA DX-pedition went off well. The boys down there did a fine job.

There are a few new stations in San Antonio on SSB and next month I will try to report their calls and anything else we can get of interest.

Anyone having comments about SSB that would like to pass them along please give me a call at WA 3-1586. We had a visit from W5VL and he spent about two hours on SSB with my rig and will inform you ol' ardent AM'ers that you should join us as it is a great mode of operation. You should drop around to a Side Banders QTH and try it. We have had a lot of good comments about the stickers we use on our QSL cards—"2 way SSB, Please Help Stamp Out Carriers".

73 and good Sidebanding

Mac, W5BVI

40 METERS

The phone band has been acting-up quite a bit during the recent cold spell. Some times in the evening the band was really dead. DX was worked however, by some low power stations. Earl, K5GMV using a Ranger and a vertical worked I1AIM (Italy) one afternoon at 5 P.M. Marion, W5-DBN, lost his homebrew beam to the high wind and it is understood that he is putting up a HyGain 2 element beam. Bertha, W0RAW/5, and her OM, Stan, W0FXW are in town and working 40 meter AM.

Other stations heard on the band were: K5QHF, Phil; W5YDO, Jim; K5RKX, Bob; W5HX; W5AQV; W5DCP, Bob; K5ONC, Fred; W5-AJT; K5HXS, Bob; W5IWE, Ray (Prexy of SARC); K5OQL, Al; W5-FAK, Sid; K5OZO, Jim; W5VPK; K5HQR, Charlie; W5BE, Les; W5RT, Paul; and K5UWS, Bob.

W5LOB, Edsel, of Melvin, Texas was in town on 13 Jan. 62. Mrs. Bill Ross, XYL of K5LLK, went to visit her folks at Springfield, Ohio and helped Joe, K8TSP, wear out his mobile on 40 meters-Hi!

DX Heard—I1AIM, ZL2BE, HK1-XT, YV5BFP and VP2SY.

Request any suggestions or any news items for this column be passed on to the author via landline or by postcard. Wish to thank all for kind remarks. 73, Aubrey K5MOF.

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4-1000A, Socket & Chiminey—New, $50. Chicago F-725—7.5V, 25A Fil. Trans. $10. B & W FC-30 Filament Choke, $5.; Vacuum Cond.—Plate, $20. Cardwell Pi Net Outpur Cond., $10. Astatic 10C Mike—New, $10. Astatic D-104 Mike—New, $15. Electro-Voice 636—New, $12.50. Collins 312-B5 Control Unit, $270. LM Freq. meter & Power Supply, $40. BC 221 Freq. Meter, $25. Hickock 800 Tube Checker, $135. Misc., Parts, Meters, Etc. Call Art Lippers, TA-6-0013 W5DSU.

Collins 75A4 & matching speaker, Seo. Nr. 5668, Excellent. $550. M. D. Harris, LE 2-2726 7-9 P.M. Weekdays.

GUTTER DOPE

Look for a rash of sideband signals on 6 meters soon. W5UB, Pappy, is coming out with a slick little transverter that will put your 14 mc SSB, AM or CW signal on six.

Marion, W5DBN, lost his new 40 meter beam to the winds during the recent cold spell.

Inez, W5WXT, received her membership No. 430 in the Certificate hunters Club.

Wiat's this about Paul, W5RT, going sideband?

Len, W5LGG, not only collects certificates, he also specializes in sons. Congratulations to Len and Marie on their third Harmonic.

Berna, K5LYV, is off to California to visit with her son, W4NDB/6 and family.

W0RAW and W0FXY visiting in the Alamo City. Welcome folks.

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